

## ***MEMORANDUM***

April 13, 2002

TO: EQB Members and  
Technical Representatives

FROM: Larry B. Hartman  
EQB (Tel: 651-296-5089)

RE: Application of Hutchinson Utilities Commission for a Pipeline Routing Permit and Partial Exemption from Pipeline Route Selection Procedures for Approximately 89 Miles of New 16- and 12.75-inch Natural Gas Pipeline in the Minnesota Counties of Martin, Watonwan, Brown, Nicollet, Sibley and McLeod (EQB Docket # 02-33-PRP-HUC)

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### **Action Taken and Procedural Background**

On April 2, 2002, the EQB chair accepted an application from the Hutchinson Utilities Commission (HUC) for a pipeline routing permit and for a partial exemption from pipeline route selection procedures for the project referenced above. This action was taken based on the recommendation of EQB staff.

This project requires EQB review and is likely to come before the board for a decision in September. Copies of the HUC application will be distributed to board members and technical representatives for review in the near future. EQB staff also expects to make the application available on the EQB Web site.

Acceptance of this application will allow EQB staff to initiate the necessary review requirements of Minnesota Rules Chapter 4415. EQB staff will also schedule a public information meeting in each county crossed by the proposed pipeline. Notice of the public information meetings will appear in the EQB Monitor and will also be sent to you.

A Certificate of Need (CON) is also required for this project. The HUC filed its Certificate of Need Application with the Public Utilities Commission in December 2001. The PUC accepted the HUC application in February 2002. The PUC will hold a contested case hearing on May 15 and 16. When a CON from the PUC is required, the EQB will not make a final decision on the partial exemption or pipeline routing permit, until after the PUC grants the CON.

I am the project manager for this project. Please direct any project-related questions to me at: 651-296-5089 or [larry.hartman@state.mn.us](mailto:larry.hartman@state.mn.us)

Attached is a brief project summary.